

Beierle Farm, Barn
Denver International Airport Site
Hudson Road & 96th Avenue
Denver
Denver County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-124-H

HABS
COLO
16-DENV,
63H-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BEIERLE FARM,
BARN

HABS No. CO-124-H

Location: Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 2 South, Range 65 West, Sixth Prime Meridian. Denver County, Colorado. Vicinity of Watkins, Colorado.

UTM: 13: 532500, 4412500

Present Owner: Denver International Airport,
City and County of Denver

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: None

Statement of
Significance:

As a complex, the current Beierle Farm offers an example of the work process and flow of a wheat and grain farm and its methods of operation. In particular the grain bins and scale house offer examples of facilities frequently used by farmers in the area. Other buildings testify to the evolution of the farm from a dairy to a grain farm.

The Beierle Farm also has significance as an example of farm evolution and development by Adams County, Colorado, tenant farmers. Tenant farming was a common pattern of land use and livelihood for much of the area during most of the twentieth century. The Ray Beierle family worked as tenant farmers for more than fifty years. They worked at this farm for three different landlords, the Grossmans, the District Land Owners Trust and finally for Box Elder Farms until 1990. In addition, the Beierle Farm house is a significant example of an 1890s vernacular hipped cottage.

Project Statement: This Historic American Building Survey recording project is part of both the historic preservation plan for the Denver International Airport and a long term program to document historically significant buildings in the United States. The City and County of Denver through the Denver International Airport provided funding for the project.

The field work, measured drawings, historical reports and photographs were prepared under the direction of Deborah Andrews of Andrews & Anderson under contract to the City and County of Denver. Deborah Andrews, Nanon Anderson, Karen Hardaway and Jim Fischer of Andrews & Anderson did the field measurements and architectural delineations. Arnold Thallheimer undertook the photography. Steven Mehls of Western Historical Studies, under sub-contract to Andrews & Anderson, served as project historian.

Historian:

Steven F. Mehls, Western Historical
Studies, Inc., March 10, 1992

Barn

Exterior

The one and one-half story barn is constructed of 2x4 wood framing covered with masonite siding similar to T-111, except in the gable ends where lapped siding has been used. The barn was built about 1950 and went through nearly continual upgrading until 1956.¹ The foundation of the barn is partly random rubble masonry and partly a poured concrete sill, most of which has failed and broken away. Visible above the foundation is a six inch sill plate which is partly stabilized by an interior poured concrete slab. The simple, moderately-pitched gabled roof barn is roofed with standing seam metal, but original wood shingles are visible beneath the metal roofing. The building has eight small windows, three entry doors and a door to the hay loft. North and west of the barn is the fenced corral complex.

Interior

The barn has a concrete slab floor. There are three storage rooms on the east side and a milking parlor which runs the full length of the west side. Miscellaneous interior components, such as the remains of stalls, that were part of earlier dairy operations are present. The interior walls are unfinished.

Existing Condition

Significant deterioration of the building is evidenced by rot in the 6-inch sill plate and severe deterioration of the concrete sill, which was poured at some point to help support the sill. At some locations the concrete sill is entirely gone. The roofing is fairly recent and in good condition. The structural roof framing is undersized for span and spacing.

Endnote

1. Ray Beierle [Jr.], personal communications to Steven Mehls, 26 March, 7 April 1992